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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
6 January 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Dominican Republic Situation Report

(Report as of 11:00 PM EST)

1. The regular Dominican military is resisting with a show of force Garcia Godoy's decree that its chiefs depart the country along with leading rebel military personnel.
2. The Embassy has reported that the chiefs have barricaded themselves in their downtown Santo Domingo offices. At about 7:00 PM EST, Minister of Defense Rivera said the armed forces throughout the country "were going into action." The Armed Forces appear to be attempting to block roads and seize key communication facilities. In the interior city of Santiago local military commanders have indicated they will not obey the president's orders and local police are deploying throughout the city. An earlier report from Santiago indicated that local commanders would not take any violent action, but would only act to maintain order. National police chief Despradel, along with many other military officers, have indicated they are backing the Defense Minister.
3. It would appear on the basis of early reports that the military are moving rapidly to maximize their positions. Although they may be operating with some restraint until the position of the IAPF becomes clear, they have made no bones about their intention to resist the president's orders and may use his decree as a pretext for "rounding up subversives." To what extent these objectives of the military are real or are for propagandistic value is not yet clear. In any event the chiefs

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probably calculate that the more menacing their stance the stronger will be their bargaining position if the IAPF intervenes, or if Garcia Godoy's resolve weakens.

4. The major threat tonight would seem to come from extremists of both the right and left unleashing violence, either deliberately or accidentally. There are many hot heads among the military and they could attempt to "round up" rebels and possibly attack Caamano's 27th of February Camp. On the other side, leftists and Communists are sure to uncache their arms. The military's actions in seizing Radio Santo Domingo is sure further to unnerve the left and cause them to fear that an all out attack on them is near.

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